



# National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Feb. 7, 2015

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Interactive E-Newsletter 2015

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## Promoting awareness amid progress

From 1997 to 2012, Maryland experienced a 23% decrease in the number of new HIV cases and reported a 52% decrease in the number of deaths among AIDS cases. Although people are living longer with HIV and AIDS, aging and co-existing conditions continue to be a challenge.

February 7, 2015, is National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NBHAAD). Activities across the nation will raise awareness about HIV and AIDS with focuses on getting educated, tested, involved and treated. In Maryland, it is estimated that there are at least 4,900 people who are infected with HIV and do not know it!



## HIV treatments can help



People who have received early HIV testing and Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) medications that cause viral suppression are living longer with HIV. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) includes medications that can prevent HIV infection among those without HIV but who are at risk of infection. Working together, we can achieve an HIV-free generation.

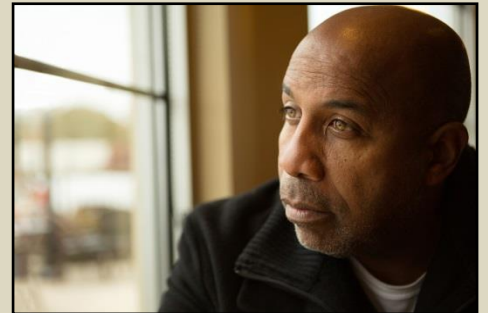
## Common HIV risks are heightened in major urban areas

HIV awareness matters especially in urban areas, where the risky behaviors seen in society at large can occur in higher numbers. These risk behaviors for HIV include alcoholism, drug abuse and unprotected sex. Health disparities are prevalent in urban regions. It is important for all Marylanders – across the state – to safeguard their health. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shares information recommending that all people between 15 and 65 be tested for HIV.

## MARYLAND FACTS

### One out of 24 black males 50-59 is living with HIV

The rate for African American men living with diagnosed HIV at the end of 2012 (1,760.7) was higher than for any other group. The second-highest affected group was African American females (983.0) and the third-highest were Hispanic males (392.9). Men who have sex with men (MSM) are at highest risk for HIV in our state.



### By 2012's end, 10,807 women and girls in Maryland were living with HIV

Sixty-seven percent of the adult/adolescent women with HIV in Maryland with a reported risk were exposed through heterosexual contact and 33% were exposed through injection drug use. Women and girls are encouraged to learn and utilize HIV prevention skills.

An HIV-free generation is part of the vision of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration.

**GET EDUCATED, GET TESTED, GET INVOLVED AND GET TREATED!**

Families, students, faith- and community-based organizations, agencies and health care professionals must join together in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Helpful resources follow:



## HIV Prevention

- <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/prevention.html>

## HIV Testing

- [http://phpa.dhmmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/infectious\\_disease.aspx](http://phpa.dhmmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/infectious_disease.aspx) , or call 410.767.5132
- Find a Test Site Near You <https://gettested.cdc.gov/>
- To locate free HIV testing in Maryland, text your local ZIP code to KNOWIT (566948)

## Free Educational Materials

- For free educational materials for Maryland-based agencies, call the Materials Distribution Center at 410.799.1940 or the Infectious Disease Bureau at 1.800.358.9001

### DHMH HIV Prevention, Care Services, and Surveillance and Epidemiology Website

- [http://phpa.dhmmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/infectious\\_disease.aspx](http://phpa.dhmmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/infectious_disease.aspx)

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), provides HIV [prevention](#) and [care services](#) to protect and improve the health of all Marylanders. To do this, we work closely with faith- and community-based organizations, health care providers, local health departments, and public- and private-sector agencies.

This is a 2015 interactive National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day E-Newsletter for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Infectious Disease Bureau, Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, 500 North Calvert Street, 5th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Contact our offices by phone 410.767.5227 or fax 410.333.6333.

